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Alabama Historical Commission awards Elizabeth W. Sims the Distinguished Service Award

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) has awarded a 2009 Distinguished Service Award to Elizabeth W. Sims of Notasulga. The Distinguished Service Award is awarded annually to individuals and groups whose contributions demonstrate excellence in historic preservation. The AHC recognizes her work in documenting, restoring and promoting the historic Shiloh Rosenwald School near Notasulga.

Sims, an Auburn University research administrator, is working with students from the university's College of Architecture, Design and Construction as well as architecture students from Tuskegee University to restore the school. Sims formed the Shiloh Community Restoration Foundation in 2006, and received a \$50,000 grant for the project from the Lowe's Charitable and Education Foundation, which is a program administered by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Ms. Sims is an alumnus of the Shiloh Rosenwald School, which was constructed in c. 1921 through collaboration between Julius Rosenwald, former CEO of Sears Roebuck & Co., and Booker T. Washington. The Rosenwald program helped fund the construction of 5,300 schools in the rural South in the early-to-mid 1900s.

The AHC will present the award on Friday, October 9 at noon at the Hotel at Auburn University Hotel & Dixon Conference Center, site of this year's Alabama Preservation Conference.

*To protect, preserve, and interpret Alabama's historic places is the mission of the **Alabama Historical Commission**, the **State Historic Preservation Office**.*

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